

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Previously Presented) A method of controlling routing of packets in a connectionless routing protocol network including an infrastructure of packet switching nodes interconnected by packet transport links, and a plurality of access nodes to which a routing path, defined by data held in packet switching nodes located along said routing path, may be directed in said infrastructure for a given network address, said method comprising:

routing packets along a first routing path for a first network address, which routing path is directed to a first access node serving a mobile node using said first network address via a communications link;

designating an interface, other than the communications link to the mobile node from the first access node, on which to forward packets arriving along said first routing path to a second access node;

subsequent to the designation of said interface, handing over the communications link of the mobile node, such that the second access node serves said mobile node;

responsive to the handing over of the communications link, altering routing in said infrastructure for said first network address to create a second routing path for said first network address, directed to said second access node; responsive to the creation of said second routing path, altering routing in said infrastructure for said first network address to remove said first routing path; and

routing packets to said second access node via said second routing path.

2. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 1, wherein said designating step comprises designating a forward path from said first access node to said second access node for said first network address, said forward path not requiring routing in said infrastructure to be altered for said first network address.

3. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 2, wherein said arriving packets are encapsulated and transmitted via a packet tunnel forming said forward path.

4. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 3, wherein said packet tunnel is provided by tunnelling via said infrastructure.

5. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 2 wherein one or more control data packets for managing said routing alteration are transmitted via said forward path.

6. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 5, wherein said one or more control data packets comprise a control data packet initiating said routing alteration at said second access node.

7. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 2 wherein said forward path is designated by state data held in said first access node and related to said mobile node.

8. (Currently Amended) A method as in claim 7, said state data being removed from said first access node following propagation of said routing update to said first access node.

9. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 8, wherein said state data is removed from said first access node in response to receipt of said routing update at said first access node.

10. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 8 wherein said first access node transmits a routing update acknowledgement to said second access node in response to receipt of said routing update.

11. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 7 wherein a time-out is associated with said state data, said state data being removed from said first access node following said time-out.

12. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 1, wherein said interface is directed towards a cache local to said first access node.

13. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 1, wherein said routing alteration comprises said second access node transmitting a routing update to said infrastructure.

14. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 13, wherein said routing update is arranged to propagate via said infrastructure to said first access node.

15. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 14, wherein said routing update is transmitted to said first access node as a unicast update.

16. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 1, wherein said designating step is performed in response to receipt of a mobility request received from mobile node at said first access node.

17. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 1, wherein said communications link is a wireless link.

18. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 17, wherein the functionality of said wireless link allows said mobile node to receive data from only one of said first access node and said second access node during said handover.

19. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 18, wherein said wireless link is a TDMA radio link.

20. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 17, wherein the functionality of said wireless link allows said mobile node to receive data from both said first access node and said second access node during said handover.

21. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 20, wherein said wireless link is a CDMA radio link.

22. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 1, wherein said network address is an Internet Protocol (IP) address.